



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/028,133	12/20/2001	Charles E. Brugger	82187NAB	2430
7590	02/23/2006		EXAMINER	
Milton S. Sales Patent Legal Staff Eastman Kodak Company 343 State Street Rochester, NY 14650-2201			WORKU, NEGUSIE	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			2626	
			DATE MAILED: 02/23/2006	

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)
	10/028,133	BRUGGER ET AL.
	Examiner	Art Unit
	Negussie Worku	2626

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 14 December 2005.
 2a) This action is **FINAL**. 2b) This action is non-final.
 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4) Claim(s) 1-42 is/are pending in the application.
 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
 5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
 6) Claim(s) 1-42 is/are rejected.
 7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
 8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
 10) The drawing(s) filed on 20 December 2001 is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
 Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
 Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 a) All b) Some * c) None of:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Murk
2/26/06

DOUGLAS Q. TRAN
PRIMARY EXAMINER
Tranlong

Attachment(s)

1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
 2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
 3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
 Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____

4) Interview Summary (PTO-413)
 Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____

5) Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)

6) Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

1. Applicant's arguments based on amendment made with respect to claims 1-42 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection. Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. The Office action is non-final.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

2. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

3. Claims 1-21 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Westcott et al. (USP 6, 628,433) in view of Chavez (USP 6,131,522)

With respect to claim 1, Westcott teaches or discloses a scanning system supporting platen and sheet-fed scanning of documents, (platen type scanning, and sheet feed type scanning of fig 2A) comprising: a first scanning unit (first scanning unit 32 of fig 2A) with a first enclosure housing (first enclosure 12 of fig 1B) a first set of mechanisms (rollers 60 and 62, for transmission of document to onto paper pathway 66 of fig 2A) for sheet-fed, double-sided scanning functions, col.6, lines 32-35), said first

scanning unit (first scanning unit 32 of fig 2A, col.6, lines 32-35), further comprising a connection to the computer (scanner can be connected to a host computer, (col.7, lines 9-13); and a second scanning unit (second scanning unit 110 of fig 4A through 4C, COL.8, LINES 8-25) with a second enclosure (second enclosure 14 of fig 4A) attached to said first scanning unit (first scanning unit 32 of fig 2A) through a first tether interface, (docking interface 16 of fig 2A, via a hook 82 of 2A, col.6, lines 1-5) and including a second set of mechanisms (second scanning unit 110, includes subsystem the function of platen element, col.8, lines 8-14) for single sided platen scanning of documents, col.8, lines 10-15), and said first and second scanning unit (32 and 110 are physically separated as shown in fig 1A). **But** Westcott does not teach or disclose wherein said first tether interface provides for power from said first scanning unit to said second scanning unit; said first tether interface transmits digital information between said first and second scanning units.

Chavez in the same area of connecting image scanner to the host computer and to other different devices teaches wherein said first tether interface provides for power from said first scanning unit to said second scanning unit, (as shown in fig 1, scanner 120 connected to printer 122 and desktop computer 128 via cable 124, which is the power and computer connection cable 124 of fig 1); said first tether interface (cable 124 of fig 1) transmits digital information between said first and second scanning units (cable 124, transmit power as well as data information from the scanner to the computer 128 of fig 2. col.2, lines 30-40).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to a person with ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have modified the imaging apparatus of Westcott to include: first tether interface provides for power from said first scanning unit to said second scanning unit; said first tether interface transmits digital information between said first and second scanning units.

It would have been obvious to a person with ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have modified the imaging device of westcott by the teaching of Chavez, for the purpose of having a flexible connectivity between various devices, such as scanner printer and computer.

With respect to claim 2, Westcott discloses the scanning system (platen type scanning, and sheet feed type scanning system of fig 2A), wherein a third digital scanning devices (scanner 14 of fig 1B, is attached to scanner 12 of fig 1B) is attached to said first scanning unit each of the scanner unit or said second scanning unit (col.6, lines 32-35),

With respect to claim 3, Westcott discloses the scanning system (platen type scanning, and sheet feed type scanning system of fig 2A), wherein said digital scanning device (platen scanner 10, or feed scanner 5, inherently scan or copy any document), for scanning checks or tickets.

With respect to claim 3, Westcott discloses the scanning system (platen type scanning, and sheet feed type scanning system of fig 2A), wherein third digital scanning device (one of the scanner user can select, fig 1A), comprise is a digital camera (optical sensor 40 of fig 2a, a CCD sensor) for capturing digital photographs (document or original).

With respect to claim 5, Westcott discloses the scanning system (platen type scanning, and sheet feed type scanning system of fig 2A), wherein a unit control (host computer controls the imaging system, col.7, lines 6-11) and image processing electronics contained in said first scanning unit (first scanning unit 32 of fig 2A) handles data control and camera movement, for both said first scanning unit (32 of Fig 2A) and said second scanning unit (110 of fig 4A),

With respect to claim 6, Westcott discloses the scanning system (platen type scanning, and sheet feed type scanning system of fig 2A), wherein said first scanning unit (the first scanner 32 of fig 2A), second scanning unit (the second scanner 110 of fig 2A1) share a common host address on said computer (host computer col.7, lines 6-11).

With respect to claim 7, Westcott discloses the scanning system (platen type scanning, and sheet feed type scanning system of fig 2A), wherein a third scanning unit (image forming 40 of fig 2A) a third enclosure is attached to said first scanning unit (32 of fig 2A). But, Westcott does not teach or disclose wherein said tether interface

Chavez in the same area of connecting image scanner to the host computer and to other different devices teaches wherein said first tether interface, (as shown in fig 1, scanner 120 connected to printer 122 and desktop computer 128 via cable 124, which is the power and computer connection cable 124 of fig 2, col.2, lines 30-40).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to a person with ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have modified the imaging apparatus of Westcott to include: first tether interface provides for power from said first scanning unit to said second scanning unit; said first tether interface transmits digital information between said first and second scanning units.

It would have been obvious to a person with ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have modified the imaging device of westcott by the teaching of Chavez, for the purpose of having a flexible connectivity between various devices, such as scanner printer and computer.

With respect to claim 8, Westcott discloses the scanning system (platen type scanning, and sheet feed type scanning system of fig 2A), wherein said tether interface is an electronic cable (interface cable inherently provided as electronic cable), .

With respect to claim 9, Westcott discloses the scanning system (platen type scanning, and sheet feed type scanning system of fig 2A), wherein said tether interface is a radio frequency link (interface radio link inherently provided as electronic interface).

With respect to claim 10, Westcott discloses the scanning system (platen type scanning, and sheet feed type scanning system of fig 2A), wherein said tether interface is a fiber optic cable (fiber optic cable inherently provided as electronic transmission means).

With respect to claim 11, Westcott discloses the scanning system (platen type scanning, and sheet feed type scanning system of fig 2A), tether interface is an infrared link, (infrared link inherently provided as electronic transmission means).

With respect to claim 11, Westcott discloses the scanning system (platen type scanning, and sheet feed type scanning system of fig 2A), wherein said first set of mechanisms (scanner unit 32 of fig 1 and 2, includes, mechanism such as fed mechanism as shown in fig 2A)) of said first scanning unit (image reading unit 32 of fig 2A) comprise: a feeder opening (feed path 18 of 2A) through which paper documents are fed into said first scanning unit (paper document feed to optical-scanner 5 of fig 1A, through ADF 24 of fig 1A); an exit opening adapted to output scanned documents from said first scanning unit (5 of fig 1A); a paper pathway extending from said feeder opening to said exit opening (paper out 20 of fig 1A, tray for receiving document from feeder opening); and a first image-forming subsystem (image forming subsystem 40 of fig 2A, col.6, lines 51-53), disposed within said first scanning unit (5 of fig 1A) for scanning images appearing on documents fed through said feeder opening (ADF 18 of fig 2A).

With respect to claim 13, Westcott discloses the scanning system (platen type scanning, and sheet feed type scanning system of fig 2A), wherein said first image-forming subsystem (40 of fig 2A) comprises a camera (optical reader (CCD) 32 of fig 2A).

With respect to claim 14, Westcott discloses the scanning system (platen type scanning, and sheet feed type scanning system of fig 2A), further comprising a feed roller (fed roller 60 and 62 of fig 2A), disposed about said feeder opening (ADF'S opening 18 of fig 2A, for feeding and outputting the document through the scanner 24 of fig 3), and adapted to facilitate the introduction of said documents into said first paper pathway (218 of fig 2A).

With respect to claim 14, Westcott discloses the scanning system (platen type scanning, and sheet feed type scanning system of fig 2A), further comprising a separation roller (ADF'S pick up roller 60 and 68 of fig 2A) disposed adjacent to said feed roller (58A and 58B of fig 2A) and adapted to ensure that only a single sheet of paper is fed through said feeder opening during at any one time (Inherently, feed a single sheet).

With respect to claim 16, Westcott discloses the scanning system (platen type scanning, and sheet feed type scanning system of fig 2A), further comprising a plurality of rollers (rollers of fig 2A) disposed about said paper pathway (218 of fig 2A) and

configured for facilitating the transmission of paper documents from said feeder opening to said exit opening, (ADF 24 of fig 2A, provide feed opening and exit opening of the document, fig 2A).

With respect to claim 17, Westcott discloses the scanning system (platen type scanning, and sheet feed type scanning system of fig 2A), wherein said first image-forming sub-system (scanner of fig 2a, includes image forming elements 40 of fig 2A) comprises: a lens; a light source disposed about said first paper pathway for directing light into paper documents (col.8, lines 25-35) entering said first scanning unit (scanning unit 32 of fig 2A) through said feeder opening (ADF opens the feeder for the document to be feed); reflection means disposed for guiding reflected light from said paper documents to said lens (scanner 2A , provides mirrors 69 of fig 2A, for reflection means), the path way of the document scanner; and a camera (optical reader 32 and 110 of fig 2A) for capturing an image of said reflective light (light source 50A of fig 2A).

With respect to claim 18, Westcott discloses the scanning system (platen type scanning, and sheet feed type scanning system of fig 2A), wherein said reflection means comprises mirrors (mirror 69 a, 69B of fig 2A).

With respect to claim 19, Westcott discloses the scanning system (platen type scanning, and sheet feed type scanning system of fig 2A), wherein said second enclosure of said second scanning unit (114 of fig 4A) further comprises a substantially

flat upper surface (platen of scanner 114 of fig 1 or 2).

With respect to claim 20, Westcott discloses the scanning system (platen type scanning, and sheet feed type scanning system of fig 2A), wherein said second enclosure further comprising a glass top (platen of scanner 26 of fig 2A), fixed to said upper surface and providing a platform upon which documents can be placed (on platen, scanner 226 of fig 2A).

With respect to claim 21, Westcott discloses the scanning system (platen type scanning, and sheet feed type scanning system of fig 2A), further comprising: a lid (28 of fig 2A) for covering documents placed on said glass top (scanner 110 of fig 1, has a cover lid for pressing the document on the platen); and a hinging means (30 of fig 4a) coupling one end (hinge for coupling Lid with the body of the scanner 110 of fig 2A).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

4. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

5. Claims 22-42 rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Nakajima (USP 6,122,684) in view of Sakura (USP 6122684).

With respect to claim 22, Nakajima et al. discloses a modular scanner system (fig 1): a first enclosure with a first stationary camera (CCD image sensor 252 of fig 2), therein, said first enclosure having a first opening for feeding a document to be scanned, (by opening a platen glass cover 107 of fig 2) a second opening for delivering a scanned document to a user (tray 111 of fig 3, for delivery scanned document); a first pathway extending between said first opening (feed path way by roller 117 of fig 3) and said second opening (111 of fig 3) within said first enclosure; document handling means (ADF of fig 2) within said first enclosure adapted for receiving said document through said first opening and transporting said document via said first paper pathway to an area within said first enclosure where said first stationary camera scans (CCD 151 of fig 2) said document; a light source (light source 101 of fig 2) for delivering light energy to said document; a light guiding means (mirror 103b, 103c 103a of fig 2) for directing reflected light energy from said document to said first stationary camera (CCD 151 of fig 2); a second enclosure having a substantially flat top surface with a glass top thereon (opening a platen glass cover 107 of fig 2); a moveable camera (CCD 151 of fig 2) for scanning documents on said glass top (Platen 106 of fig 2); translation means (102b of fig 2) within said second enclosure for moving said movable camera along an axis substantially parallel to said glass top, see (col.5, lines 35-40); and a tether, connecting said first and second enclosures; and wherein said translation means (102b of fig 2) receives a drive signal from said first enclosure, see (col.5, lines 35-40).

Nakajima does not teach or disclose a tether connecting first and second enclosures.

Sakura teaches a tether (cable) (300 of fig 1) connecting first and second enclosures, (col.3, lines 43-46).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to a person with ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have modified the imaging apparatus of Nakajima to include: a tether connecting first and second enclosures.

It would have been obvious to a person with ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have modified Nakajima imaging device by the teaching of Sakura for the purpose of obtaining an interconnection between pluralities of device.

With respect to claim 23, Nakajima et al. discloses the modular scanner (fig 1) wherein a second stationary camera (CCD 151 of fig 2) mounted within said first enclosure, see (col.5, lines 35-40).

With respect to claim 24, Nakajima et al. discloses the modular scanner (fig 1), wherein said second stationary camera (CCD image sensor 151, imaging 100b of fig 1) is adjacent to said first stationary camera, (image reading 100a of fig 1) see (col.5, lines 35-40).

With respect to claim 25, Nakajima et al. discloses the modular scanner (fig 1),

Art Unit: 2626

wherein said light guiding means (mirror 103a, b, c of fig 2) comprises mirrors within said first enclosure adapted to direct light energy to a lens (lens 104 of fig 2) of said stationary camera (CCD image sensor 151 of fig 2).

With respect to claim 26, Nakajima et al. discloses the modular scanner (fig 1), further comprising: a lid (platen glass cover 107 of fig 2) for covering documents placed on said glass top (platen 106 of fig 2); and hinging means (cover 107, inheritably provides hinging mechanism for coupling said lid to said flat-top surface), for coupling said lid to said flat-top surface.

With respect to claim 27, Nakajima et al. discloses the modular scanner (fig 1) wherein said translation means (carriage 102b of fig 2) comprises a pulley and belt system (since imaging system of fig 1, moves the carriage it is inherent that the system have a belt and pulley for moving the image 102b as shown by arrow A1 of fig 2) adapted to engage said movable camera (CCD image sensor 151 of fig 2) in said second enclosure for effecting platen scanning of documents placed on said glass top (platen glass 108 of fig 2)

With respect to claim 28, Nakajima et al. discloses the modular scanner (fig 1), wherein said first enclosure further comprises a hatch configured to permit a user to clear a paper jam from said paper pathway (in order to clear paper and/or other debris that may stuck within the paper pathway a hinging or a hatch inherently provided in the

scanning system of fig 1).

With respect to claim 29, Nakajima et al. discloses the modular scanner (fig 1), wherein raw image data from said movable camera (CCD 151 of fig 2) is transmitted to said first enclosure by a tether (interface 164 of fig 6).

With respect to claim 30, Nakajima et al. discloses the modular scanner (fig 1), wherein raw image data from said second enclosure (image reading device 100b of fig 1) is processed in said first enclosure (image reading 100a of fig 1).

With respect to claim 31, Nakajima et al. discloses the modular scanner (fig 1), wherein power to said second enclosure (image reading device 100b of fig 1) is provided from said first enclosure (image reading 100a of fig 1) by a tether (interface 164 of fig 6).

With respect to claim 32, Nakajima et al. discloses the modular scanner (fig 1), wherein finished image files are transmitted by said first enclosure (image reading device 100b of fig 1) to a host computer (CPU 161 of fig 6) for documents scanned both by said first enclosure and said second enclosure (image reading 100a of fig 1).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

6. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

7. Claims 33-42 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Westcott et al. (USP 6,628,433) in view of Sakura (USP, 6,122,684).

With respect to claim 33, Westcott et al. discloses a detachable platen scanner (fig 1A) for a scanning system supporting platen and sheet-fed scanning of documents (fig 1A-1B) comprising: an enclosure having a substantially flat top surface (12 and 14 enclosure 12 and 14 of fig 1A and 1B) with a glass top (26 of fig 1A) attached thereon, (col.5, lines 40-45); a camera (CCD of fig 2c) sub-assembly; translations means (feed mechanism ADF of fig 1A) within said enclosure adapted for moving said camera (CCD of fig 2) sub-assembly in a direction permitting scanning of documents placed on said glass top (26 of fig 1A); wherein drive signals and power for said translation means (feed mechanism ADF of fig 1A) are received from a separate scanning unit (image forming subsystem 70 of fig 1a), via ether; and wherein raw image data from said camera sub-assembly is transmitted to said separate scanning unit via said tether for processing, (col.8, lines 45-55).

Westcott et al., does not teach or disclose a tether connecting separate scanning unit.

Sakura teaches a tether (cable) (300 of fig 1) connecting separate unit (col.3, lines 43-46).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to a person with ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have modified the imaging apparatus of Westcott to include: a tether connecting first and second enclosures.

It would have been obvious to a person with ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have modified Westcott imaging device by the teaching of Sakura for the purpose of obtaining an interconnection between pluralities of device.

With respect to claim 34, Westcott et al. discloses a detachable platen scanner (fig 1A) 3) further comprising: a lid (28 of fig 4B) for covering documents placed on said glass top (26 of fig 1A); and hinging means (30 of fig 4b), coupling said lid to said enclosure.

With respect to claim 35, Westcott et al. discloses a detachable platen scanner (fig 1A), wherein said translation means (ADF of fig 4B) comprises a pulley and belt system for moving said camera (CCD of fig 2A) sub-assembly for effecting platen scanning of documents placed on said glass top (26 of 4b).

With respect to claim 36, Westcott et al. discloses a detachable platen scanner (fig

Art Unit: 2626

1A), wherein said enclosure further comprises a rod engaged with said camera (CCD of fig 1A) sub-assembly for moving said camera sub-assembly.

With respect to claim 37, Westcott et al. discloses an airport security system (fig 4B) comprising: a scanner for scanning documents relating to a passenger (CCD scanner shown in fig 1A through 4B); a digital camera (CCD of fig 4B) which captures a digital image of said passenger; and transmits said digital image to said scanner through a tether; and wherein said scanner prepares a composite image comprised of a scanned image of said document and said digital image of said passenger, (col.8, lines 25-40).

With respect to claim 38, Westcott et al. discloses scanner (fig 1A) airport security system wherein said composite image is transmitted to a host computer for storage (col.7, lines 9-12).

With respect to claim 39, Westcott et al. discloses the airport security system (fig 2) wherein a host computer cross checks said image of said passenger against law enforcement agency files (col.7, lines 9-12).

With respect to claim 40, Westcott et al. discloses the airport security system 9scanner of fig 1A-4B), wherein a host computer cross-checks information in said scanned document against law enforcement agency files (col.7, lines 9-12).

With respect to claim 41, Westcott et al. discloses an airport security system (fig1A-2B), wherein said digital camera (CCD of fig 5) transmits information to said scanner by a tether.

With respect to claim 42, Westcott et al. discloses an airport security system (fig 1A) wherein additional scanners at other gates and additional digital cameras (CCD image sensor of fig 4b) at other gates transmit information on other passengers to said scanner in the form of raw image data for processing (col.7, lines 9-12).

8. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Negussie Worku whose telephone number is 571-272-7472. The examiner can normally be reached on 9am-6pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Kimberly Williams can be reached on 571-272-7471. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only.

Art Unit: 2626

For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



Art unit 2626

Negussie Worku

02/17/06

DOUGLAS Q. TRAN
PRIMARY EXAMINER

